



Director of
Central
Intelligence

Top Secret



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Watch Committee Report

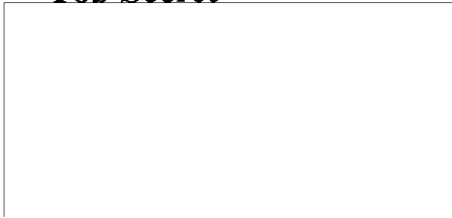
To Executive Registry

From Executive Secretary

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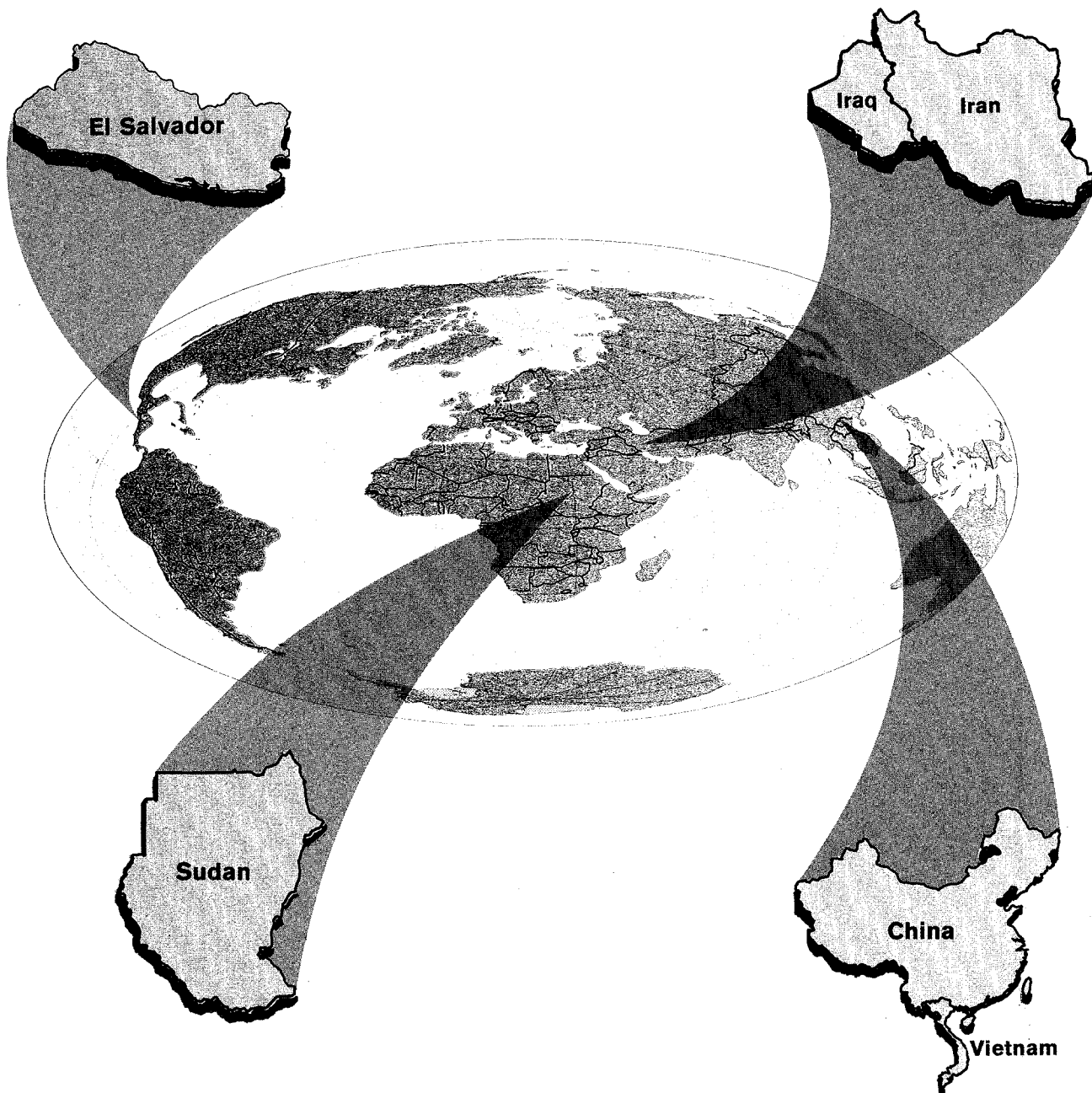
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Watch Committee Report

The Director DIA, Director NSA, Director of State/INR, and CIA's Deputy Director for Intelligence believe there are developments in the following areas that could have demonstrable effect on US security and policy interests in the near future.

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Watch Committee Report

Terrorism

The danger to Americans and American facilities in the Middle East remains high. Because the number of Westerners in Beirut has declined sharply, we believe Iranian-backed terrorists may be looking for American targets outside of Lebanon:

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Meanwhile, we remain concerned about terrorist activities directed against Americans in Colombia and Ecuador, and believe political tensions associated with the elections in Greece could spark anti-American violence there.

El Salvador

Leftist guerrillas are likely to step up terrorist activities in a last-ditch effort to disrupt Sunday's national elections. While the Army so far has effectively stopped any large-scale guerrilla military operations, it will have difficulty preventing urban terrorist activity directed against government officials or Americans.

Iran-Iraq

Stepped-up Iraqi bombing raids on Iranian cities can be expected following the latest Iranian Scud missile attacks on Baghdad. We continue to believe Iranian leaders may be forced to consider drastic measures to alleviate Iraqi pressure, including more attacks on southern Gulf shipping, another assault in the Hawizah marsh, or possibly an operation against a Persian Gulf country.

China-Vietnam

Reinforcement of border positions and an associated high level of military activity suggest the Chinese are planning some sort of military operation against Vietnam. We expect the principal action to take place in the Malipo-Ha Tuyen sector, but believe it will be limited to artillery shelling and localized infantry activity.

Sudan

Sporadic protests against increased bread prices are likely to continue, even though the security forces so far have successfully contained widespread rioting. The latest price hikes, in addition to recent periodic food and fuel shortages, have caused serious morale problems and may encourage coup plotting, especially while Nimeiri is out of the country.

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Areas of Continuing Concern

Israel-Lebanon

A stepped-up Israeli-Lebanese Shia conflict seems inevitable in the light of Israeli plans to build new settlements near the Lebanese border, and Shia plans to extend terrorist operations into northern Israel. Continued Israeli attacks on Shia villages are leaving behind a legacy of bitterness and hatred.

Peru

Leftist guerrillas reportedly are about to initiate an urban terrorist campaign to disrupt next month's elections.

Nicaragua

We continue to believe the Sandinistas may be considering shelling the FDN base at Las Vegas, Honduras, before the rainy season begins in May.

South Africa

Further violence can be expected in the wake of last week's disturbances in black townships. While we believe the security forces are capable of handling the problem, there is always the possibility of overreaction leading to even greater turmoil.